

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

AID-05 L-02 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 PER-01 ABF-01 IO-10 MMS-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 /102 W
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R 091422Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9257

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05716

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: UG, GW, PFOR, CPRS

SUBJECT: ENGEL CLAIM AND US-UGANDAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 60875

THE FRG FONOFF HAS PASSED US ANOTHER REPORT FROM ITS
EMBASSY IN KAMPALA RE THE ENGEL CLAIM, WHICH HAS NOT YET
BEEN PAID. THE REPORT ALSO INCLUDES ANOTHER LIST OF
REASONS SUBMITTED BY FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA FAVORING THE
RESUMPTION OF AN OFFICIAL US PRESENCE IN KAMPALA. BEGIN
TEXT:

1. RE COMPENSATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION LTD.,
THE ACTING MINISTER OF FINANCE, OBOTH-OFUMBI, TOLD ME
(FRG AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN) ON APRIL 1, 1975 THAT
PAYMENT WILL BE EFFECTED AS SOON AS PEAT, MARWICK,
MITCHELL AND CO. INFORM THE GOU OF ACCOUNT TO WHICH
MONEY IS TO BE TRANSFERRED AND GIVES ASSURANCE THAT THIS
PAYMENT WILL SETTLE ALL CLAIMS OF INTERNATIONAL TELEVI-
SION LTD. AND MR. AND MRS. ENGEL. COMPENSATION OFFER IS
UGANDAN SHILLINGS 2,800,000 IN U.S. DOLLARS (AS
RECEIVED). FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA ADVISES THAT THIS OFFER
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BE ACCEPTED SOON EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT QUITE COVER THE

CLAIM. OTHERWISE, PAYMENT MIGHT BE DELAYED, ESPECIALLY IF PRESIDENT AMIN REALIZES THAT U.S. EMBASSY WILL NOT BE REOPENED FOR SOME TIME.

2. RE THE REOPENING OF U.S. EMBASSY KAMPALA, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE IN ORDER:

A. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ON THE AGENDA OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA, HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION HAS SEEN FIT TO POSTPONE THE MATTER FOR ONE YEAR.

B. THE ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION AND INSULTS WHICH NECESSITATED CLOSING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN 1973 IS REGRETTED BY MOST UGANDANS, POSSIBLY EVEN AMIN, ALTHOUGH IT IS POINTED OUT BY UGANDANS WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. AND BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS AS WELL THAT CERTAIN ACTS OF THE THEN KAMPALA-STATIONED U.S. MARINES HAD IRRITATED IF NOT OFFENDED THE GOU AND AMIN.

C. IT IS BELIEVED THAT AMIN WANTS TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED IN 1973 AND IS NOW READY TO ENSURE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY--WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES ARE.

D. PRESS COVERAGE RE AMIN IS BAD NOT ONLY IN THE U.S. BUT IN ALL WESTERN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE UK AND FRG, WHICH DESPITE THE BAD PRESS, HAVE KEPT THEIR MISSIONS OPENED.

E. AMIN VERY LIKELY WILL NOT CHANGE, BUT WILL REMAIN UNPREDICTABLE HE MAY ALSO CONTINUE TO MAKE UNDIPLOMATIC STATEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, AMIN IS THE FORTHCOMING CHAIRMAN OF OAU AND, AS SUCH, THE LOGICAL SPOKESMAN OF AFRICA FOR ONE YEAR.

F. THE DELIVERY OF NEW HEAVY ARMAMENTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION (TANKS, MISSILES, MIG 21S) SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF SOVIET STRATEGY NOT ONLY IN EAST AFRICA BUT ALSO BEYOND, I.E., THE INDIAN OCEAN. ACCORDING TO MANY OBSERVERS, THE MAIN TARGET OF THE STRONG MILITARY BUILD-UP IN SOMALIA AND UGANDA IS NOT ONLY TO EXERCISE POLITICAL PRESSURE ON KENYA WHEN THE TIME COMES, BUT ALSO TO DOMINATE MILITARILY THE HARBOR OF MOMBASA. ONLY THE AMERICANS ARE BELIEVED TO BE INFLUENTIAL ENOUGH TO COUNTERACT SOVIET PRESSURES ON

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AMIN.

G. IT WOULD SEEM TO SERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS BETTER (IF A REOPENING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IS BEING CONSIDERED AT ALL) TO REOPEN THE EMBASSY BEFORE THE OAU CONFERENCE--NOT AFTER.

H. IT WOULD EVEN SERVE BRITISH INTERESTS IF THE U.S. PRESENCE WERE RE-ESTABLISHED. THIS OPINION, HOWEVER, IS NOT SHARED BY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN

KAMPALA, END TEXT.

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